

Testimony of Jeff Sheldon in Support of Senate Bill 374 An Act Establishing Millwright Contractors and Journeymen Licensing.

Chairman Senator Doyle, Chairman Representative Baram, members of the General Law Committee, my name is Jeff Sheldon. I live at 1925 Manchester Road, Glastonbury, Connecticut and have been a resident of Connecticut all of my life.

I have been a tradesman and millwright for over 40 years. I am here to talk about my thoughts and the positive benefits of Senate Bill 374, Millwright Contractors and Journeymen Licensing.

My job requires me and my fellow millwrights to be very skilled and highly trained in the construction, repair and maintenance of America's power generation, manufacturing, and production industries.

From the time of the Industrial Revolution and into the future, good and qualified, and I repeat qualified millwrights are critical and essential to the well-being and progress of our modern society.

I and other millwrights must own, maintain, transport and upgrade the tools of our trade, which can amount to a very substantial investment and expense. I am required to have a broad range of certifications and extensive training.

I must possess OSHA 10 and 30 hour safety training, millwright training, plant training, gas and steam turbine training, and training for the Connecticut conveyor installer license. I have to have extensive rigging knowledge and training. I am trained in human performance, trained and certified in safe and proper scaffold erecting. I am trained in fork lift operation. I am trained in structural and bolting integrity and applications, and blueprint reading, welding and metal fabrication.

I am trained in precision machinery, alignment (to within one thousandths of an inch), pump troubleshooting, and a lot more. A millwright should and must be well versed and skilled in many of the different crafts to be able to perform his job properly. I have learned and experienced throughout my years that a millwright is at the apex of the trades.

Millwrights could be on a conveyor job one day, and on a water treatment plant the next. The next month a millwright could be at an electrical powerhouse or a food processing plant.

Worker, and public safety, and (what's left of) our manufacturing facilities are dependent on good and qualified millwright skills.

That's why I think state licensing of millwrights will guarantee the public's and business's best interest. As it is right now, just about anyone can answer a job advertisement, walk in and "become a millwright" with minimal skills and training. I think that the mechanical licensing of millwrights is long overdue and would be a definite win-win for our great state of Connecticut.

Feel free to ask, if you have any questions pertaining to my experiences and insights through my life long career as a professional millwright.

Thank you,

Jeff Sheldon

Old Time Millwright